

REMARKS

At the time of the Final Office Action dated November 30, 2005, claims 1-24 were pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 1, 17, 22, and 24 have been rejected. Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's allowance of claims 5-16 and 23. Applicants also acknowledge, with appreciation, the Examiner's indication that claims 2-4 and 18-21 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 17, 22, and 24 have been cancelled. Claims 2-3, 18, and 20-21 have been amended to be placed in independent form. Applicants submit that the present Amendment does not generate any new matter issue.

**CLAIMS 1, 17, 22 AND 24 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AS BEING
ANTICIPATED BY BALCEROWSKI ET AL., U.S. PATENT NO. 6,101,545 (HEREINAFTER
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Claims 1, 17, 22 and 24 have been cancelled, and thus, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Applicants have made every effort to present claims which distinguish over the prior art, and it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance. However, Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if it is believed that a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the application to an allowance. Accordingly, and in view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims.

Although Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is directed to the following statement found in M.P.E.P. § 706(II):

When an application discloses patentable subject matter and it is apparent from the claims and the applicant's arguments that the claims are intended to be directed to such patentable subject matter, but the claims in their present form cannot be allowed because of defects in form or omission of a limitation, the examiner should not stop with a bare objection or rejection of the claims. The examiner's action should be constructive in nature and when possible should offer a definite suggestion for correction.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 09-0461, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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